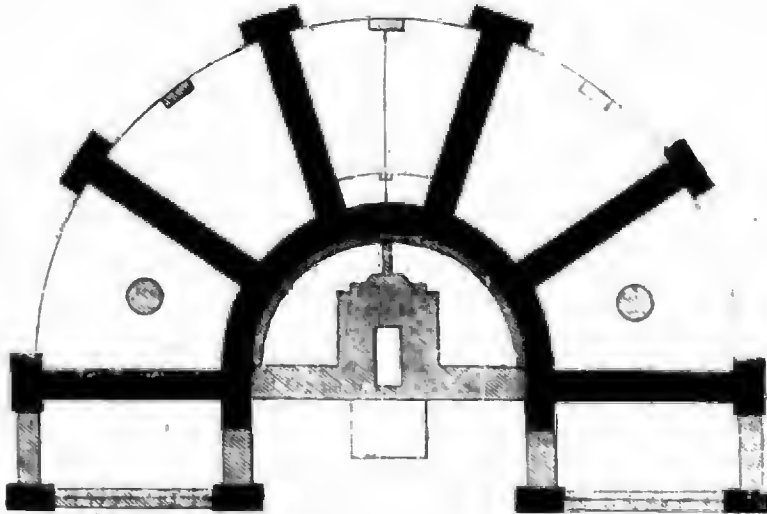


DEVON PAUPER LUNATIC ASYLUM.*

MR. C. FOWLER, ARCHITECT.



THE WANDERINGS OF A CHURCH FONT.

SIR,—I herewith inclose you a drawing of a font lately fixed in the church of St. John the Baptist, at Stree, in Buckinghamshire, which may probably interest yourself and readers. This font first came under my notice while engaged in restoring the Norman church, above named, for the excellent vicar (the Rev. J. B. Reside, M.A., F.R.S.), whose good taste readily seconded my suggestion for displacing the modern composition enormity, which then defaced the church, and which had been a few years before substituted for the original font by some zealous whitewash-loving churchwardens, who, after having besmeared the walls and nicely painted the oak pews, described the church facetiously enough as "repaired and beautified" under their jurisdiction. Upon fixing this neat-looking piece of cement, the original was of course—"more consuetudine" forthwith devoted to the economical purposes of a hog trough, and has since become irrecoverably lost.

The font to which the drawing refers originally stood in the parish church of Hampstead Norris, in Berkshire, about 15 miles from Reading, and is still well remembered by many of the older inhabitants. This church, dedicated to St. Mary, is of very ancient character, although from the many alterations and additions to which it has from time to time been subjected, it displays in different parts almost every variety of style in gothic architecture. The door-way, with semi-circular arch, decorated with the chevron and other Norman mouldings, together with other portions of the building, would at once determine its original

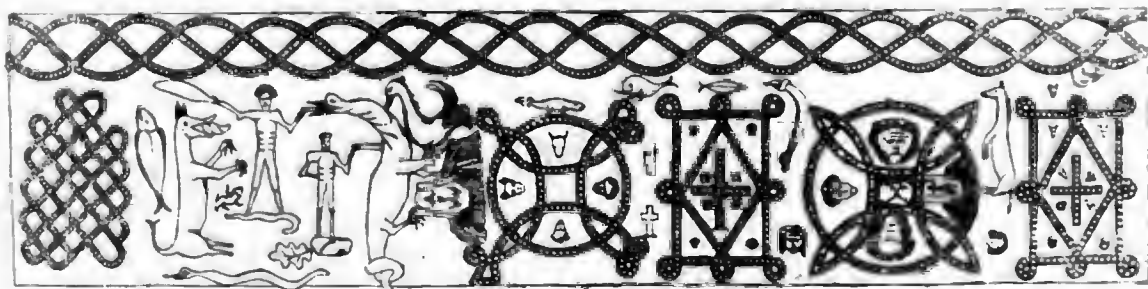
* See p. 349, in the present number.

NORMAN RELIC.



J. S. A. & L.

F. S. A. & L.



SCULPTURE ROUND THE FONT.